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Clerk of the Circuit Court / Comptroller
Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
Nassau County



October 4, 2010

"Ask the Clerk" Article
Jury Duty

Q: *I've received a JURY SUMMONS. What should I know before appearing?*

A: All persons who are summoned to serve as jurors must attend jury selection unless they have been excused by the court. Attendance is essential to the fair administration of justice. People who fail to respond to a jury summons without being properly excused may be fined up to \$100 and, in addition, held in contempt of court.

Section 40.013 of the Florida Statutes lists the reasons that a person must or may be excused from jury service. A person must be excused if he or she is listed in one of the mandatory disqualification categories. A person may be excused if he or she is listed in one of the optional exemption categories.

Mandatory disqualifications are as follows:

- Governor;
- Lieutenant Governor;
- Cabinet Officer;
- Clerk of Court;
- Judge;
- A convicted felon whose civil rights have not been restored;
- A person currently under prosecution for a crime; or
- A person who no longer resides in Nassau County.

Optional exemptions are as follows:

- Expectant mother;
- A person 70 years of age or older;
- A parent not employed full-time and having the care and custody of a child under six (6) years of age;
- A person who was previously summoned and appeared as a prospective juror in Nassau County within one (1) year;
- A caretaker of a person who is mentally or physically incapacitated; or
- A person who is a full-time federal, state, or local law enforcement officer, or investigator employed by a law enforcement agency.

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Any other reasons for excusal must be submitted to the Jury Services Department at the Nassau County Judicial Annex. **ONLY THE JUDGE CAN EXCUSE A PERSON FROM JURY SERVICE.**

Jurors who are unemployed, retired, self-employed, or who will not receive regular wages are entitled to payment of \$15.00 per day for jury service. After the 3rd day of service, jurors will be paid \$30.00 per day. A form for payment will be provided for jurors to complete.

Jurors must dress appropriately. Appropriate attire is a coat and tie for a man; a dress or pant suit for a woman; or a military or other uniform. Casual clothes are not appropriate. **ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS, GAUCHOS, CAPRI PANTS, OR SHORTS.** Prospective jurors who are not dressed appropriately will not be permitted to stay for jury selection and will be rescheduled to appear at a later date wearing appropriate attire.

For more information on jury duty, please visit our website at www.nassauclerk.com. For further questions, you may also contact our office at 904-548-4607.

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